

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

IN THE CLAIMS

Patent Application

Please enter the following indicated amendments.

Please cancel Claims 1 – 7.

8. (Currently Amended) An SEU-resistant circuit comprising
 - a logic gate having an input and an output;
 - a feedback path from the output of the logic gate to the input of the logic gate, the feedback path comprising two or more delay logic elements, said logic gate and said two or more logic elements each comprising an input to output pulse response operable for delaying a propagation time of a pulse propagating therethrough and for selectively reducing a pulse width thereof; and
 - the logic gate and the two or more delay logic elements being configured to absorb a standard operable for reducing in size an instance of a potentially SEU producing glitch introduced at the input to of the logic gate before it the potentially SEU producing glitch propagates through the feedback path to the input of the logic gate, the input to output pulse response of the logic gate and the two or more logic elements being substantially similar in that the resulting amount of pulse propagation delay and amount of reduction of the pulse width of the potentially SEU producing glitch being is spread substantially evenly among the logic gate and the two or more delay logic elements.
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Currently Amended) The SEU-resistant circuit of claim 8 wherein ~~the delay elements comprise balanced gates~~ the input to output pulse response of the logic elements is

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

balanced such that a rise time and fall time of the input to output pulse response is approximately the same for each of the logic elements.

11. (Currently Amended) The SEU-resistant circuit of claim 8 ~~wherein the feedback path further comprises a driver gate~~ further comprising a plurality of logic gates, an input to output pulse response of the plurality of logic gates and the two or more logic elements being configured to produce a pulse propagation delay approximately no longer than a maximum pulse propagation delay of the slowest of the plurality of logic gates when the slowest logic gate is fully loaded with maximum fan out.
12. (Currently Amended) The SEU-resistant circuit of claim 8 ~~11 wherein the delay elements comprise inverters~~ the input to output pulse response of the plurality of logic gates and each of the two or more logic elements is operable to prevent a glitch with a time length less than approximately one-half of the maximum pulse propagation delay from passing through the plurality of logic gates or through each of the two or more logic elements without being reduced in size such that said glitch is unable to trigger a subsequent logic element.
13. (Currently Amended) The SEU-resistant circuit of claim 8 ~~11 wherein the number of delay elements is even~~ the input to output pulse response of the plurality of logic gates and the two or more logic elements does not substantially reduce the time length of a pulse with a time length greater than two times the maximum pulse propagation delay.

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

14. (Withdrawn) An SEU-resistant circuit having a first state and a second state, the SEU-resistant circuit comprising

- a first flip-flop having a first state and a second state, the first flip-flop configured to change state upon application of a signal to a first flip-flop signal input;
- a second flip-flop having a first state and a second state equivalent to the first state and the second state of the first flip-flop, the second flip-flop configured to change state upon application of a signal to a second flip-flop signal input;
- the first flip-flop being coupled to the second flip-flop such that the SEU-resistant circuit does not change from its first state to its second state unless the state of the first flip-flop agrees with the state of the second flip-flop;
- an input to receive a signal to cause the SEU-resistant circuit to change states when the signal changes states;
- the input coupled to the first flip-flop signal input;
- the input coupled to the second flip-flop signal input through a delay circuit; and
- the input is for one of a clock, reset or preset signal.

15. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant circuit of claim 14, wherein
the delay circuit is non-inverting.

16. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant circuit of claim 14, wherein
the delay circuit has a delay greater than the maximum expected glitch time.

Please cancel Claims 17 – 21

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

22. (Withdrawn) An SEU-resistant flip-flop comprising
- a Data input;
 - a GB input;
 - a network responsive to signals applied to the Data input and the GB input;
 - the network having a Q1 output which has the value of the signal applied to the Data input when the signal applied to the GB input is low;
 - the network having a Q2 output which has the value of the signal applied to the Data input D seconds after the signal applied to the GB input is low;
 - the Q1 output of the network being coupled to a Q1 node;
 - the Q2 output of the network being coupled to a Q2 node;
 - a two-input one-output TAG, the output of the TAG being configured to change state only if the value of the signal on its first input is the same as the value of the signal on its second input;
 - the first input of the TAG being coupled to the Q1 node;
 - the second input of the TAG being coupled to the Q2 node;
 - the output of the TAG being coupled to a QB node;
 - a first slow inverter having its input coupled to the QB node and its output coupled to the Q1 node; and
 - a second slow inverter having its input coupled to the QB node and its output coupled to the Q1 node.
23. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 22 further comprising
- a transmission gate, gated by the value of the signal in the GB node, in a signal path between the first slow inverter and the Q1 node; and
 - a transmission gate, gated by the value of the signal on the GB node, in a signal path between the second slow inverter and the Q2 node.

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

24. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 22 further comprising an inverter coupled to the QB node.
25. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 22 wherein the TAG comprises two series-connected P-type FETs, the gate of a first P-type FET coupled to the Q1 node, the gate of a second P-type FET coupled to the Q2 node, the series-connected P-type FETs having a supply end and a connection end;
two series-connected N-type FETs, the gate of a first N-type FET coupled to the Q1 node, the gate of a second N-type FET coupled to the Q2 node, the series-connected N-type FETs having a ground end and a connection end; and
the connection end of the series-connected N-type FETs being coupled to the connection end of the series-connected P-type FETs and to the QB node.
26. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 25 wherein
the P-type FET coupled to the Q2 node is at the connection end of the series-connected P-type FETs; and
the N-type FET coupled to the Q2 node is at the connection end of the series-connected N-type FETs.
27. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 22 wherein the network comprises
a first inverter having its input coupled to the GB input, the output of the first inverter being coupled to a G node;
a delay G having its input coupled to the G node, the output of the delay G being coupled to a G2 node;
an inverter having its input coupled to the G2 node and its output coupled to a GB2 node;
a first transmission gate coupled between the Data input and the Q1 node and gated by the signals on the GB and G nodes; and
a second transmission gate coupled between the Data input and the Q2 node and gated by the signals on the GB2 and G2 nodes.

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

28. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 27 wherein the delay G comprises a first delay coupled in series with a second delay.
29. (Withdrawn) The SEU-resistant flip-flop of claim 27 further comprising a buffer coupled between the Data input and the first and second transmission gates.
30. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the vulnerability of an latch electronic circuit to single event upsets, comprising: the latch comprising a gate having an input and an output and a feedback path from the output to the input of the gate, the method comprising providing one or more logic gates for said circuit with a feedback path from an output of a respective of the one or more logic gates to an input thereof; inserting a delay one or more logic elements into the feedback path; and providing a delay in the that the one or more logic circuits and the one or more logic gates each have an input to output pulse response such that an initial input glitch with a pulse width less than a pulse width L1 effectively does not pass through a respective of the one or more logic circuits or a respective of the one or more logic gates because a resulting diminished output glitch is not capable of triggering a change of state of a subsequent logic element; and providing that if the initial input glitch has a pulse width greater than pulse width L1 but less than a pulse width L2 then the resulting diminished output glitch effectively passes through the respective of the one or more logic circuits or the respective of the one or more logic gates because the resulting output glitch is then capable of triggering a change of state of the subsequent logic device but that the resulting diminished output glitch then has a reduced pulse width as compared to the initial input glitch; and

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

providing that the pulse width L1 and the pulse width L2 are approximately equal for the respective of the one or more logic circuits and for the respective of the one or more logic gates.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the one or more logic gates comprises a first FET having comprising a first channel and a second FET having comprising a second channel, ~~the channel of the first FET and the channel of the second FET coupled at a node having a parasitic capacitance~~, wherein said providing step comprises:
- adjusting the characteristics of the first channel of the first FET, ~~the characteristics of the channel of the second FET and the parasitic capacitance of the node.~~
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein said step of adjusting comprises increasing changing at least one of a width or the a length of the first channel of the first FET.
33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein increasing said step of changing comprises making the first channel non-linear wider.
34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~ 31 wherein said step of adjusting making comprises inserting a jog non-linearity into the first channel.
35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the jog non-linearity is a right angle.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 ~~further comprising~~ wherein an input signal pulse having a signal pulse width greater than a pulse width L3 effectively passes through the respective one or more logic gates or passes through the respective one or more logic circuits

Attorney Docket MSC-22953-3

Patent Application

without a substantial change in a resulting output signal pulse width.

~~coupling the output of the gate to a threshold device having an input, an output and a threshold, the output having a first value when the input is less than the threshold and a second value when the input is greater than the threshold.~~

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising:

providing that said one or more logic gates and the one or more logic circuits comprises a latch circuit.

~~adjusting the time constant and the threshold so that~~

~~a glitch of length L_1 at the input to the gate would not effect the output of the threshold device;~~

~~a glitch of length L_2 , $L_1 < L_2 < L_3$, would cause a pulse of length $L_4 < L_2$ to appear at the output of the threshold device after a delay determined by the time constant and the threshold; and~~

~~a glitch of length $L_5 > L_3$ would cause a pulse of length approximately L_5 to appear at the output of the threshold device after a delay determined by the time constant and the threshold.~~